

THE COMET.

VOL. I.

JOHNSON CITY, TENN., SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1884.

NO. 14.

Oscar Wilde was married to Miss Lloyd in London the other day.

The latest new song has for a title "The Coming Man Will Happier Be."

The latest Citchinatti song is "My Boy, Where is Your Father To-night?"

Dr. Tautner in a New York interview reiterates that we are a nation of gluttons.

Wau Kiu, the Philadelphia Chinaman who married a negro, is in jail for quarreling with her.

A *Rare Excite*—An Englishman who can't tell us how to run the country better.

Beattie Cummings, eight years old, got a \$10,000 verdict for a leg lost in being run over by the Brooklyn City Railroad.

Tennessee is suing the Pullman Palace Car company to find out how many cars are run in the state and liable for taxation.

In the public garden of Boston this spring there are 50,000 pansies, 12,000 daisies, 200 forget-me-nots, 1,500 Canterbury bells and 4,000 tulips.

Amherst college rejoices in a just finished \$50,000 gymnasium, the gift of Mr. Charles M. Pratt of Brooklyn, who graduated at Amherst in 1879.

John Ninet, who occupied a high position in Arabi Pasha's administration, is writing a life of the Egyptian patriot. It will be published at Berne.

Five prominent musical ladies have the same Christian name, namely, Emma Albani, Emma Thursby, Emma Junch, Emma Nevada and Emma Abbott.

Ex-Secretary Elihu B. Washburne expects this summer to carry out a long cherished purpose of making a carriage tour through old Oxford county, Maine.

A lot of New York actors have started a club house on Staten Island. A statue of George L. Fox as Humpty Dumpty has been placed on the lawn in front of the house.

The fourteen-year old daughter of Geo. Wilhelm, of Lima, Ohio, jumped the rope 256 times and fell unconscious. She lay in that condition for twenty days before she died.

A farmer of Ohio county has this "note" posted up in his field: "If any man or woman's cows or oxen gets in these here lots, his or her tail will be cut off as the case may be."

At Louisville, Kentucky, recently over three hundred fire alarm boxes were wholly or partly destroyed in consequence of an electric light wire crossing the fire signal wire. The connections were melted.

The petition to Queen Victoria in favor of the restoration of Valentine Baker to the British army has already been signed by over twelve thousand persons, including several peers and members of the commons.

It is all well enough to speak of the wise son that knows his own father; but how about the wise father that doesn't know his own son, as in the case of Grant and his festive offspring?

Mr. Lynch the colored man now noted as the temporary chairman of the Republican Convention, was a photographer in Natchez till General Butler's son-in-law, Governor Ames, put him into politics.

Miss Washburn of Chicago, who is rivaling Miss Chamberlain as a model beauty in London, is reported to have such additional accomplishments as singing, piano playing, painting, horseback riding and speaking all the modern languages.

Farmer Russell, a negro, burned his wheat stubble the other day at Fredericksburg. He barely got his team out of the field before eleven explosions followed rapidly after each other. The fire had struck a pile of shells on a battlefield.

Pilot Robert and Engineer Steiner of the Atlantic Express, which caused the fatal wreck on the West Shore road on May 24, and who were arrested under the verdict of the Coroner's jury, have been discharged by the examining magistrate for want of evidence to commit them.

A lone and curiously marked hawk, of an unknown variety, has been visiting Petoskey recently and making a nuisance of himself killing all the canary birds he could find hanging out of doors. He is but a little larger than a robin, and is beautifully marked with orange and red.

Clayton's empty sleeve does not seem to be much of a secret to conjure with. The New York Evening Post says he did not lose his arm in the war, but shot it off himself while on a gunning expedition during the halcyon days of his Arkansas thievery and that the most innocent days of his whole life were those he spent under the hands of his surgeon at that time.

One man in Turner county claims to have killed over eight hundred wolves this season, selling the skins to traders and scalps yielding bounty. He says he runs them to their lairs with hounds, and digs them out, making \$800 a month.

An Acknowledgment.—A man telling about a wonderful parrot hanging in a cage from the window of a house which he had often passed, said: "It cries 'Stop thief!' so natural, that every time I hear it I always stop."

George W. Jones, to whom was first applied the phrase "the watchdog of the treasury," is living at Fayetteville, Lincoln county, Tenn., in robust health at the age of eighty years. Mr. Jones served in Congress for eight consecutive terms. He found his stumbling-block when he jumped over into the arms of the Secessionists.

The concession granting the right to lay a cable between Portugal and America, which was obtained some time ago, has been transferred to a joint stock enterprise entitled the American and British Continental Cable Company. The first section of the cable to St. Michael's one of the Azore Islands, will be laid in September.

The National Cremation Society enrolled several new members at a meeting the other night at its rooms, 445 North Fifth street, and now includes forty-five members. Three of these are women. A stock company, composed largely of members of the society, is engaged in raising money to build a crematory, but as yet the amount is small.

At Danville, a picked nine recently played the nine of a Richmond baseball club. There was a spirited contest and betting ran high. At Danville the grand jury indicted about twenty of the better. The trial has just taken place. The jury hung and was locked up for twenty-four hours. Today they agreed upon a verdict of guilty, finding the betters \$530 each and costs.

The messenger-boy is so called after the famous Messenger breed of race-horses; but not because of his swiftness. It was on account of the slowness of the former, the name having been bestowed ironically, after the Indian fashion of nomenclature, which makes it proper to call a great coward Man-not-Afraid-of-Satan, and the bravest of all the braves Man-Afraid-of-a-Boiled-Hen.

In 1881 a Rutland county gentleman had twins added to his family. The births took place about a half hour apart, one baby coming to light at 11:45 on the night of December 31, 1881, and the other youngster putting in an appearance a little after 12 o'clock on the morning of January 1, 1882. Here we have a circumstance of twin children whose birthdays occur on different days, different months and in different years.

Mr. Lowell may intend to resign, but not one responsible person seems to know anything of the rumored step. London Truth says: "The approaching resignation of James Russell Lowell, the American Minister, will cause universal regret." Washington dispatches indicate that there is no foundation for the story. Mr. Frothingham said last night that he knew nothing whatever of the matter.

Samuel H. Olmstead, "Mark Twain," is a member of Rev. Mr. Twitchell's church in Hartford, and so was the late ex-Governor was "higher up" in the church, as the humorist expressed it, and used to pass around the plate. One day Mark Twain said to the ex-governor: "See here, governor, they let you collect the donations, but they would never let me do it." "Oh, yes, they would," said the ex-governor, adding, "that is, with a bell-punch."

A young lady in Wisconsin was standing on the veranda, with her lover's arm around her, enjoying a thunder storm in perfect safety, when the young man left for a moment and she was struck by lightning. The young man was censured for leaving her unprotected. Since that occurrence, when a storm comes up, it is amusing to see the girls rush to the protection of their favorite lightning-rods. The thing will work as well here as in Wisconsin, girls, and we are always disengaged during a thunder storm.

Miss De la Rame, otherwise "Ouida," recently accepted an invitation to a breakfast party in London. The other guests came and the breakfast hour came too and went. But no "Ouida" appeared. Finally the chagrined hostess and her disappointed friends sat down at the table. At this moment the apparently belated "Ouida" hurried into the dining room. It was not until several days afterwards that the rest of the party learned that she had been the first to arrive and, having seated herself behind the drawing room door, had quietly listened to her merciless dissection by the ladies with whom she had come to break bread.

The First National Bank of Mystic, Conn., began a suit in the United States Circuit Court the other day against Ulysses S. Grant, Jr., Ferdinand Ward, Ulysses S. Grant, and James D. Fish, composing the firm of Grant & Ward, for the recovery of promissory notes made payable to the order of James D. Fish, and given to the firm. One note was for \$2,000, made payable May 15, 1884; another for \$10,000, each payable June 1.

A Happy Retort.—"What business was your father?" asked an imperious colonel of a modest-looking lieutenant. "A tobaccoist, sir." "What a pity he did not make you one." "Possibly, sir. And now, will you allow me to ask you a question?" "Certainly. What is it?" "What was your father?" "My father was a gentleman, sir," replied the haughty and imperious colonel. "Well, then, it is a deuced pity he didn't make you one."

C. K. Bushnell, at Bean Hill, has fourteen martin boxes on his premises which have long been occupied by the birds. Last winter the plucky English sparrows took possession of the boxes and held them until spring, when the martins returned. A bird war ensued and as a result the martins have recovered twelve of the boxes. The sparrows still hold two boxes, which they have so valiantly defended that they have been left in quiet possession of them.

After reading and digesting the 200 selected poems, picked out of the 1,000 pieces of verse written by competitors for Mr. Barnum's \$500 prize for the best 50-line poem about the sacred white elephant, Chief Justice Daly, Judge Brady, and Dr. Robert Collyer, the judges, the other day rendered a written verdict that three of the poems possessed merit, but that none of them was worthy of the \$500 prize. It is probable that Mr. Barnum will offer to divide the prize among the authors of these three poems and publish them together.

Cincinnati Enquirer letter: It is a sight for the gods to see the Southern mokes marching from hotel to hotel with white convicts. Those fellows are thrifty. They only get a pie like this once in four years, and they can be sold and resold. To-night in the rooms of the Georgia delegation, a saffron-colored Texan was coaxing a delegate as black as the ace of spades to support Blaine. "What for?" said Pompey. "Kase he sat down on dat force bill?" "Now, go away, dar; I have heard dat before. Blaine urged dat force bill to put us niggers back in slavery. Arthur, he beat it; he sat up in Congress all night and defeated that bill." Of such stuff are southern delegations.

Charles O'Connor's will bequeathed to the New York Law Institution all the bound volumes in his library marked "My Own Cases." It provides that \$20,000 in money and two silver testimonials be given to Mrs. Elizabeth W. Johnson. To Miss Guilhelma Folger, Ross Brayton and Miss Isabella Chaffin \$10,000 each, are given and a lot in Nantucket goes to Anna Rose. He divides the residue of his estate as follows: Two-thirds to his sister, Eliza Margaret Sloan, and the remaining third to Miss Julia Pardon. The papers concerning his doings in the matter of Jefferson Davis and those concerning his intercourse with Mr. Forrest's affairs he deposes to be carefully preserved.

Mr. Buchanan's niece, Miss Harriet Lane, now Mrs. Johnston, was honored during the administration of her uncle in the naming of the smartest revenue cutter of the day. The cutter became a cruiser at the outbreak of the war and many thousands lips repeated the well worn announcement, "That Harriet Lane has been fired at." Semmes captured her off Galveston and took her as a prize to Havana, where she was turned into a sailing vessel and rechristened Elliot Ritchie. The sequel to her strange eventful history comes in the following dispatch from London: "Bark Elliot Ritchie Perkins, from Brunswick, March 22, for Buenos Ayres, has been abandoned at sea water-logged and crew handed at Pernambuco."

Judge Longworth, of Cincinnati, is one of the best known jurists in the West. The other day he reached Liverpool by a steamer and cheerfully submitted his baggage to the inspection of the customs officials. Unfortunately there were in one of the packages two or three revolvers. It happened that this package was broken open, merely by mistake, and the deadly weapons were revealed to the eyes of the detectives who were after dynamiters. Judge Longworth admitted his ownership of the trunk and immediately found himself under arrest. He assured the officers that he was not a conspirator in any sense and that he could easily convince them of the fact. The result was that he had to go to his hotel under guard and remain under surveillance until able to give ample proof of his character and position.

The Republican Platform.

The Republicans of the United States in National Convention assembled renew their allegiance to the principles upon which they have triumphed in six successive Presidential elections, and congratulate the American people on the attainment of so many results in legislation and administration by which the Republican party has, after saving the Union, done so much to render its institutions just, equal, and beneficent—the safeguard of liberty and the embodiment of the best thought and highest purposes of our citizens.

The Republican party has gained its strength by quick and faithful response to the demands of the people for the freedom and the equality of all men, for a united nation assuring the rights of all citizens, for the elevation of labor, for an honest currency, for purity in legislation, and for integrity and accountability in all the departments of the Government, and it accepts anew the duty of leading in the work of progress and reform.

We lament the death of President Garfield, whose sound statesmanship, long conspicuous in Congress, gave promise of a strong and successful Administration, a promise fully realized during the short period of his office as President of the United States. His distinguished success in war and in peace has endeared him to the hearts of the American people.

In the Administration of President Arthur we recognize a wise, conservative, and patriotic policy, under which the country has been blessed with remarkable prosperity, and we believe his eminent services are entitled to and will receive the hearty approval of every citizen.

It is the first duty of a good government to protect the rights and promote the interest of its own people; the largest diversity of industry is most productive of general prosperity, and of the comfort and independence of the people. We, therefore, demand that the imposition of duties on foreign imports shall be made, not for revenue only, but that in raising the requisite revenues for the Government, such duties shall be so levied as to afford security to our diversified industries, and protection to the rights and wages of the laborer, to the end that active and intelligent labor, as well as capital, may have its just reward, and the laboring man his full share in the national prosperity.

Against the so-called economical system of the Democratic party, which would degrade our labor to the foreign standard, we enter our earnest protest. The Democratic party has failed that the burden of unnecessary taxation by a mere reduction of the surplus.

The Republican party pledges itself to correct the inequalities of the tariff, and to reduce the surplus, not by the vicious and indiscriminate process of horizontal reduction, but by such methods as will relieve the tax-payer without injuring the laborer or the great productive interests of the country.

We recognize the importance of sheep husbandry in the United States, the serious depression which it is now experiencing, and the danger threatening its future prosperity; and we therefore respect the demands of the representatives of this important agricultural interest for a readjustment of duty upon foreign wool, in order that such industry shall have full and adequate protection.

We have always recommended the best money known to the civilized world, and we urge that an effort be made to unite all commercial nations in the establishment of an international standard which shall fix for all the relative value of gold and silver coinage.

The regulation of commerce with foreign nations and between the States is one of the most important prerogatives of the general Government, and the Republican party distinctly announces its purpose to support such legislation as will fully and efficiently carry out the constitutional power of Congress over inter-State commerce.

The principle of the public regulation of railway corporations is a wise and salutary one for the protection of all classes of the people, and we favor legislation that shall prevent unjust discrimination and excessive charges for transportation, and that shall secure to the people and to the railways alike the fair and equal protection of the laws.

We favor the establishment of a national Bureau of Labor, the enforcement of the Eight-hour law, and a wise and judicious system of general education by adequate appropriation from the national revenues wherever the same is needed. We believe that everywhere the protection to a citizen of American birth must be secured to citizens of American adoption, and we favor the settlement of national differences by international arbitration.

The Republican party, having its birth in a hatred of slave labor and in

a desire that all men may be free and equal, is unalterably opposed to placing our working-men in competition with any form of servile labor, whether at home or abroad. In this spirit we denounce the importation of contract labor, whether from Europe or Asia, as an offense against the spirit of American institutions, and we pledge ourselves to sustain the present law restricting Chinese immigration, and to provide such further legislation as is necessary to carry out its purposes.

The reform of the civil service, auspiciously begun under Republican administration, should be completed by the further extension of the reformed system, already established by law, to all the grades of the service to which it is applicable. The spirit and purpose of the reform should be observed in all executive appointments, and all laws at variance with the objects of existing reformed legislation should be repealed, to the end that the dangers to free institutions which lurk in the power of official patronage may be wisely and effectively avoided.

The public lands are a heritage of the people of the United States, and should be reserved, as far as possible, for small holdings by actual settlers. We are opposed to the acquisition of large tracts of these lands by corporations or individuals, especially where such holdings are in the hands of non-resident aliens, and we will endeavor to obtain such legislation as will tend to correct this evil. We demand of Congress the speedy forfeiture of all land grants which have lapsed by reason of non-compliance with acts of incorporation, in all cases where there has been no attempt in good faith to perform the conditions of such grants.

The grateful thanks of the American people are due to the Union soldiers and sailors of the war, and the Republican party stands pledged to suitable pensions for all who were disabled and for the widows and orphans of those who died in the war. The Republican party also pledges itself to the repeal of the limitation contained in the arrears act of 1879, so that all invalid soldiers shall share alike, and their pensions shall begin with the date of disability or discharge, not with the date of their application.

The Republican party favors a policy which shall keep us from entangling alliances with foreign nations, and which shall give the right to expect that foreign nations shall refrain from meddling in American affairs—the policy which seeks peace and can trade with all powers, but especially with those of the western hemisphere. We demand the restoration of our navy to its old-time strength and efficiency, that it may, in any sea, protect the rights of American citizens and the interest of American commerce; and we call upon Congress to remove the burdens under which American shipping has been depressed, so that it may again be true that we have a commerce which leaves no sea unexplored and a navy which takes no law for superior force.

Resolved, That appointments by the President to offices in the Territories should be made from the bona fide citizens and residents of the Territories wherein they are to serve.

Resolved, That it is the duty of Congress to enact such laws as shall promptly and effectually suppress the system of polygamy within our Territories, and divorce the political from the ecclesiastical power of the so-called Mormon Church, and that the law so enacted should be rigidly enforced by the civil authorities if possible, and by the military if need be.

The people of the United States, in their organized capacity, constitute a nation, and not a mere confederacy of States. The national Government is supreme within the sphere of its national duty, but the States have reserved rights which should be faithfully maintained; each should be guarded with jealous care, so that the harmony of our system of government may be preserved and the Union be kept inviolate. The perpetuity of our institutions rests upon the maintenance of a free ballot, an honest count, and correct returns.

We denounce the fraud and violence practiced by the Democracy in Southern States by which the will of the voter is defeated, as dangerous to the preservation of free institutions, and we solemnly arraign the Democratic party as being the guilty recipient of the fruits of such fraud and violence. We extend to the Republicans of the South, regardless of their former party affiliations, our sympathy, and pledge to them our utmost earnest efforts to promote the passage of such legislation as will secure to every citizen, of whatever race and color, the full and complete recognition, possession, and exercise of all civil and political rights.

Some Notes on the Platform.

The Republican party has not triumphed in six successive Presidential elections.

The Republican party did not save the Union.

The Republican party has not earned a continental for the elevation of labor.

The Republican party has not responded either quickly or tardily, to the demand of the people for purity in legislation.

Nor for integrity and accountability in all departments of the Government.

The Republican party is a fraud, and the same old platform lies are made to do service again in this year of grace and hope.—New York Sun.

Will Not Support Blaine.

As conventions are now managed, a man's ambition spurring the party choice, the delegates must cast his ballot under strong excitement. The voter has ample time to survey the candidate put before him. The Republican voter this year will inspect his candidate with a coldly critical eye—not the "Republican" voter who shouts out: "We want our Jim of Maine," nor he who pants to "brand" all others not of his mind, for such never think and have no eyes, but the Republican voter whose decision makes the wide difference between success and failure. Those voters depend upon it, will not support James G. Blaine. The honest and independent news papers whose opinions are worth heeding and are heeded, will not support him. The American people will not support him, for a great majority believe he is unworthy to be President of the United States, and his own acts and words justify their belief. He is a shallow-smart American. We have ten thousand men who would make a better, a safer President than he.

But we may confine the argument to the candidacy, the office he could never reach. His nomination means a disastrous defeat for the Republican party, and from that defeat the party would never recover except under other leaders and perhaps under another name.—New York Times, Rep.

The Last Words of Great Men.

The physician's narrative of Mr. O'Connor's death is of a singular interest to scientific speculators concerning the mystery of a future existence. Miss Frances Power Cobbe, in one of the English reviews a few years ago, suggested that, if a title of the attention bestowed upon the vagaries of spiritualism were to be devoted to careful, systematic observation of symptoms attending death, it might be possible to draw some scientific conclusion on that subject from the mass of well attested facts which would be collected. Mr. O'Connor's physician, Roth, testifies to a fact of the nature of those which Miss Cobbe evidently had in mind. He says that, after a long period, during which Mr. O'Connor "made no answer to questioning," he "opened his eyes, and, with extended arms, as though seeing something or some one, plainly said, 'My God!' and fell back and died without a struggle in a few moments."

Some famous men's last words are too plain to be mistaken; for example, those of President Garfield, "Oh, that pain!" or those of Alexander H. Stephens, "Doctor, you hurt me." But there are many who have gone into history perverted by omission of a part of the phrase or by suppression of the circumstances. Daniel Webster's and Immanuel Kant's are cases in point. It is well known now that Mr. Webster's "I still live" was accompanied with a request to the physician for a stimulant which had been promised to him that he might retain consciousness so long as possible. And Kant's "It is enough," on which pages of German rhapsody have been written, received a very practical construction by knowledge that at the moment it was spoken, the nurse was giving him wine and water from a spoon. Yet Wasianski in his "Memorials of Kant," calls these "mighty and symbolic words," and Thomas De Quincey interprets them as meaning that "the cup of life, the cup of suffering, is drained."

"Sir William Hamilton said that the mind works even when the body is asleep," said the philosophic clock-maker, "and I know that to be true. I don't hear these watches and clocks that you see around here," pointing to fifty or more on the walls or on shelves, all ticking. "When I listened purposely I can hear them, but at other times I don't notice them. But I know when they stop. A short time ago I put up one in our sleeping room at home. My wife objected, but I told her she would soon get used to it, and so she did. It bothered me even a little at first. We are now, however, thoroughly accustomed to hearing its beating, so much so that a couple of nights ago when it ran down we were awakened. I tried to go to sleep again, but could not. After an hour's delay I wound up the clock and set it going, and we both fell off immediately."

A Great Newspaper Boils.

In a leading article under the title, "Facing the Fires of Defeat," the New York Times of this morning says:

It is best after all, that James G. Blaine should be the candidate of the Republican party. His nomination has been urged with earnestness and sincerity by a majority of that party, even when it is in the wrong. The party now appeals to the country with a candidate who stands for something. He represents the average of Republican principles and purposes, of Republican honor and conscience, as they now are.

We shall not be surprised if some Republicans who do not like Mr. Blaine resent with heat this allegation that a man, who as Speaker of the House of Representatives, bartered his official influence for private gain, who, as Secretary of State, made the enforcement of a swindling claim against a distressed and perishing sister republic the most conspicuous feature of his foreign policy, a man who has had no part or interest in the work done in the last five years toward the purification of the public service, is a fair type and representative of the party that saved the Union, freed the slave, and restored the national credit. There will be nothing ambiguous about the defeat of Mr. Blaine. He who runs may clearly read the verdict in advance: "A candidate unworthy of confidence, and a party too careless of its honor to be longer trusted with the nation's fate."

One word as to the position of the Times. It will not support Mr. Blaine for the Presidency. It will advise no man to vote for him, and its reasons for this course are perfectly well understood by everybody that has ever read it. Without the mention of names the course of the Times was foreshadowed in its issue of May 29, when it replied to the question of a correspondent in these words:

If the nominee of the Chicago Republican Convention is a man worthy to be President of the United States, the New York Times will give him a hearty and vigorous support. If he shall be a man unworthy to hold that great office, a man who, personally and politically, in office or out, represents principles and practices which the Times abhors and has counselled its party to shun, we shall watch with great interest the efforts of those responsible for such a nomination to elect their candidate, but we can give them no help.

The interest the Times will take in this canvass is that of a friend and physician. It is not with cynical indifference, but with unspeakable sadness, that it sees the Republican party perversely set its face toward error and its feet in vicious paths; for it has done some service to the party.—N. Y. Sun.

The Hammock and the Porch.

A Hammock and a Porch were discussing their respective merits.

"I," said the Porch, "am always fresh-printed and offer superior inducements to young men who wish to leave good impressions behind them."

"I know," replied the Hammock, "but you forget that I combine the beauties of a swinging front gate and a comfortable sofa."

Both Right.

At the conclusion of a sermon, some where in Iowa, the preacher requested some one to pass around the hat and "take up a collection." A young man, a stranger in the place, jumped up and commenced "circulating the hat" in such a way as to finish the job at the door and pass out with the proceeds.

The preacher, eyeing him as he went out, observed:

"If that man runs away with that money he'll be damned."

A deacon, sitting by the window, seeing him make off down the street, responded:

"And if he hasn't run away with the money I'll be damned."

The Sense of Touch.

They were in the grocery store. Said Brown (seeing a blind man about to enter): "Were you aware how delicate the touch of a blind man is? When nature deprives us of one sense she makes amends by bringing the other senses to extraordinary acuteness. Let me illustrate by this gentleman. I'll take a scoop of sugar and let him feel it, and you see how quickly he'll tell what it is." The blind man having entered, he was put to the test. He put his thumb and finger into the scoop, and without hesitation said: "That is sand." Everybody laughed but the grocer. He made three several attempts at blushing, and then went into the back shop and kicked his dog.